

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 28, page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

As an important standards organization, IEEE (Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers) organizes groups of industry members to pursue development of various information handling system technologies. Standardization of a technology by IEEE typically results in guidelines by which manufacturers, programmers, and other entities involved with device production must comply in order to make their products compatible, interoperable, or otherwise cooperative. Acting in its standards producing capacity, IEEE has established a myriad of guidelines for implementing Gigabit Ethernet (IEEE 802.3ab).

2. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 16, page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Basic input/output system (BIOS) memory 30 is also preferably coupled to local bus 26. FLASH memory or other nonvolatile memory may be used as BIOS memory 30. A BIOS program (not expressly shown) is typically stored in BIOS memory 30. The BIOS program preferably includes software which facilitates interaction with and between information handling system 10 and devices such as a keyboard (not expressly shown), a mouse (not expressly shown), or CD-ROM 32. BIOS memory 30 may also store system code operable to control a plurality of basic information handling system 10 operations.

3. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7, page 17 with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIGURE 2, information handling system motherboard 90, according to teachings of the present disclosure, preferably includes physical layer transceiver 92, communication switch 94 and communication port 96. Port replicating device 98 is also illustrated in FIGURE 2 and may be connected to system board 90 via port replicating connector 100. Among other components, port replicating device 98 preferably includes

communication port 102. In one embodiment communication controller 58 is coupled to one or more of physical layer transceiver 92, communication switch 94 and communication ~~part~~ port 96 as well as other components or devices.

4. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 26, page 20 with the following amended paragraph:

As discussed above, one of the beneficial uses of notebook computers has come to be the ability to employ port replicating devices which enable a user to quickly dock and undock their notebook computer from a variety of peripheral or other devices. In addition to the myriad of devices that may be connected to a notebook computer system, many notebook computers today include a communication port within the notebook computer itself and, in addition, the same notebook computers often include a port replicating connector which enables the notebook computer to be connected to a port replicator or docking station where the port replicator or docking station itself also includes a communication port. It is in such implementations that the introduction of communication switch 94 or a similar device is desired. In operation, communication switch 94 is preferably configured to selectively activate for operation either a communication port on board the notebook computer itself, such as a communication port 96 of FIGURE 2, or the communication port incorporated on an attached docking station or port replicator, such as communication port 102 of FIGURE 2.

5. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 9, page 25 with the following amended paragraph:

As mentioned above, the present disclosure teaches incorporation of an inductive device along one or more board-mounted transmission lines connecting communication port 96 or communication port 102 to physical layer transceiver 92 to compensate or tune selected transmission lines and thereby substantially eliminate adverse effects resulting from the inclusion of communication switch 94. Selection of a preferred inductive device may be achieved or effected by taking and compiling a number of measurements on the component side of communication port 96 or 102 and then choosing an inductive device which adjusts, ~~turns~~ tunes or compensates the electrical characteristic or characteristics desired to conform to those required by the communication protocol on the network side of communication port

102 or 96. For example, in an effort to tune communication pathway between physical layer transceiver 92 and communication port 96, electrical characteristics of transmission lines 104 and 106, such as material, dimensions, etc., connecting physical layer transceiver 92 to communication switch 94 and transmission lines 120 and 122 connecting communication switch 94 to communication port 96 may be ascertained. In addition, the communication switch 94 selected for inclusion in the communication pathway may have its switch-based resistance 194 and 195, switch-based capacitance 196 and 197, and, optionally, other characteristics, ascertained. Isolation magnetic capacitance 198 and 199 may also be taken into consideration when selecting an inductive device to tune a given communication pathway. Once the values for the electrical components of a selected communication pathway have been generally ascertained, and the parameters required on communication network 60 have been obtained, a desirable, preferred or ideal inductive device 178 and/or 180 selection may be ascertained.